

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

THERESA M. LARA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAVID MCGREW, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. C25-62-JCC

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Plaintiff Theresa M. Lara has filed an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”) in the above-entitled action. (Dkt. # 1.) Plaintiff reports no current income and no funds in cash or checking and savings accounts. (*Id.* at 1-2.) While Plaintiff states that her monthly expenses total \$840.00, she does not describe the types of expenses she incurs, as required.<sup>1</sup> (*Id.* at 2.) Plaintiff also left blank the portions of the application regarding her spouse’s income, any other money received in the last twelve months, valuable property, dependents, and any other information explaining why she cannot pay court fees and costs. (*Id.* at 1-2.)

The district court may permit indigent litigants to proceed IFP upon completion of a proper affidavit of indigence. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). “To qualify for *in forma pauperis* status,

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff wrote “SSI,” but this appears to be a source of income, not an expense. (Dkt. # 1 at 2.)

1 a civil litigant must demonstrate both that the litigant is unable to pay court fees and that the  
2 claims he or she seeks to pursue are not frivolous.” *Ogunsalu v. Nair*, 117 F. App’x 522, 523  
3 (9th Cir. 2004), cert. denied, 544 U.S. 1051 (2005). To meet the first prong of this test, a litigant  
4 must show that he or she “cannot because of his [or her] poverty pay or give security for the  
5 costs and still be able to provide him[ or her]self and dependents with the necessities of life.”  
6 *Adkins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, 335 U.S. 331, 339 (1948) (internal alterations  
7 omitted).

8 Plaintiff’s application omits information necessary for the Court to determine her ability  
9 to pay court fees and costs. Specifically, Plaintiff does not disclose whether she or her spouse has  
10 received any money in the last twelve months, whether they own any valuable property, whether  
11 they have any dependents, or the types of monthly expenses she incurs. (*See* dkt. # 1 at 1-2.)

12 Under these circumstances, Plaintiff should not be authorized to proceed IFP.

13 Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to show cause by **February 5, 2025**, why this Court  
14 should not recommend her IFP application be denied. Alternatively, Plaintiff may submit an  
15 amended IFP application by that date, fully completing each portion of the form. The Clerk is  
16 directed to re-note Plaintiff’s IFP application (dkt. # 1) for February 6, 2025, and to send copies  
17 of this order to Plaintiff and to the Honorable John C. Coughenour.

18 Dated this 15th day of January, 2025.

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20 MICHELLE L. PETERSON  
21 United States Magistrate Judge  
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